Mr. Phil Donahue(staff)
NBC-TV
New York, N.Y. 10012

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
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Dear Phil,

Remember those shows I used to do with you when you were at WHIO? All those we ad libbed when a guest didn't show?

I begin this way because I presume you get too much mail to read it all and to let your staff know that years ago we knew each other. The last show we did was one of your first on TV, when you originated in Dayton. What a blizzard you got me into when you asked me to go to Indianapolis to do a show on a sister station!

I caught part of your show this morning, after it was well started, and didn't see the end because it was pre-empted for an earthquake report. And I've not read the Abernathy book but I've more or less kept up with the controversy. If I correctly understood one of your guests, he said that the tape sent to the King family was made on a mike placed under Dr. King's bed at the Willard Hotel in Washington. Not so. It was a composite made in the FBI's lab.

So you can understand the documents I enclose, Congress amended the Freedom of Information Act's investigatory files exemption over one of my earlier FOIA lawsuits. I then filed a number of information requests, including relating to Dr. King and his assassination. I also filed a number of appeals relating to what was withheld by the FBI. The copy of the poor carbon is an appeal relating to the withholding of FBI names. I enclose it for the portion that relates to the sending of that tape to the King family. By the way, the former FBI agent, Lish Whitson, as of my last knowledge was practising law in Washington and had not been subjected to any harassment over what he did.

Also enclosed is a page from the internal investigation of how the FBI abused Dr. King. It identifies Whitson and indicates the fabrication of the composite tape and has a few other details.

The third record is an FBI expurgated version of the letter intended to get Dr. King to kill himself.

Please excuse my also sending a copy of a letter I wrote yesterday to a columnist who's name I've removed. Your staff may want to brief you on some of its additional content. I'm 76 now and in impaired health. Among my reasons is indicating the reason I have for questioning Abernathy's version of that last night.

Best wishes,

Harold

Harold Weisberg